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Final batch of CIA documents: In a letter of March 3, Owens assured me that "any Agency efforts to obtain legislative relief will not affect [my] current request." He was reluctant to give any specific date, but expects that it "will now be a matter of a few months before we can give you a final answer to your initial request." He thanked me for my patience and consideration. (Indeed.)

A not-very-forthcoming book? Speaking of CIA releases, ex-agent Frank Snepp has completed a novel about the CIA and the JFK assassination. Because of his legal problems, the CIA has to clear it before anyone else can see it. [NYT 3/11/80, p. C5, not copied. This is a longish piece about the sorry state of libel law, focusing on the Snepp case. The novel is said to be virtually completed; there is no further information about it.]

Clippings: [A very selective list. Not included, for example, are wire-service stories in the S.F. Chronicle. I'll get around to them eventually - probably when Beth goes off to college!]

** 46. 30 Dec 79 (DMN) Obituary of Lt. George Butler, with a summary of his wide-ranging career - working for Kefauver on organized crime, etc.

47. 14 Jan 80 (San Juan Star) Maurice Bishop sues newspaper for libel. Don't we wish! This one is Prime Minister of Grenada. Since he is only 36, the coincidence of names is no doubt an accident.

** 48. 20 Jan 80 (Parade, in Oakland Tribune) "Two Oswalds? Not So, Says Lee's Wife. She denies Soviet agent posed as her husband to kill JFK: 'I knew who I was sleeping with'." [So did a lot of other people.] By Jack Harrison Pollack. [3 pp.]

*** 49. [In TCI, 1/22/80] An open letter to the AIB from Richard (Critic) Sprague. [5 pp.] Fairly rational until you get to the part about Blakey being an essential part of the Power Control Group, the clincher being how he handled the umbrella man. Rated *** because of his account of his relations with the pre-Blakey HSCA; both sides said to have been happy. What happened to all the information Cliff Fenton got when his team spent 6 months or so with Garrison et al. in New Orleans, Sprague asks. (I would like to know too.) Of course, Sprague is not happy with the AIB.

*** 50. [In TCI, 1/22/80] Critique by Gary Shaw of what the HSC did and didn't do. [7 pp.] Re Patrick Dean, Thomas Eli Davis, the Babushka Lady, Larry Taylor, R. D. Matthews, and more. (Shaw, who has been the [unpublicized] assistant editor of TCI, is now leaving it.)

[The following item is reprinted in full from TCI, 1/22/80, p. 18:]
"The government wins again!! The entire files of AIB were given to Bud Fensterwald."

51. 7, 8, 14 Feb 80 (San Juan Star) [3 pp.] Reports on trial re arson-for-pay scheme reportedly engaged in by members of the anti-Castro Cuban group "Los Pragmatistas," to raise money to buy guns.

** 52. 10 Feb 80 (WP) [2 pp.] Brilab investigation of Mario Noto, INS, for his aid to Marcello. Irving Davidson said to have been a middleman.

53. 12 Feb 80 (WP) [2 pp.] Lardner: "Corruption Probes Set In Texas, La."

** 54. 17 Feb 80 (NYT-Raines) [2 pp.] "FBI coverup seen in 60's Klan attacks - JD study finds agents ignored violence by informer."

55. 17 Feb 80 (NYT-D. Rosenbaum) [3 pp.] "Undercover inquiries face review; U.S. aides defend FBI's methods"

56. 17 Feb 80 (AP in NYT) "Webster says he carefully reviewed [Abscam] tactics"

57. 17 Feb 80 (NYT-Rawls) "Louisiana governor (Edwards) shows elan in bribery inquiry"

** 58. 18 Feb 80 (NYT-Raines) [3 pp.] "Federal report says Hoover barred trial for Klansmen in '63 (church) bombing"

*** 59. 19 Feb 80 (WP-Lardner) [2 pp.] "U.S. vs. Marcello" Interesting summary of the case so far. RFK's use of the CIA in 1961 to deport Marcello is new to me. The HSC's findings are mentioned only briefly, but I would like to know what Lardner really knows and thinks.

* 60. 22 Feb 80 (WP-Lardner) "CIA information withheld from Hill, Turner testifies" (Not all covert activities are revealed.)

** 61. 24 Feb 80 (NYT-Gerth) [2 pp.] "U.S. to seek charges from a wide inquiry on organized crime." (KC, N.O., etc. Hot stuff for Mafia watchers.)

** 62. 1 Mar 80 (DMN) "[Police chief Glen] King picks assistant chief" - Jack Revill. Interesting summary of Revill's career - DPD, DPS, ran for Sheriff, returned to DPD.

* 63. 1 Mar 80 (Nation) A fairly silly letter from Jerome Agel, suggesting that LHO was really shooting at Jackie. (Over 2 columns given to this!) Donner disagrees, but mildly; calls the hypothesis "beguiling."

** 64. 4-5 Mar 80 (SF Examiner) [2 pp.] Excerpts, about the assassination, from Lee Israel's 1979 book on Dorothy Kilgallen. Interesting; not critical of Lane (who worked with her); death considered mysterious.

[Credits: Harris (46,62), Stetler (47,51), Goldberg (52,59), Lifton (54,63), Ranftel (61). Thanx.]